

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An audio decoding method comprising the steps of:  
receiving audio data including a plurality of coded  
sample data;

5 decoding the sample data;  
group a plurality of the sample data into a block;  
adding control information relating to attribute to  
each block;

temporarily storing the sample data grouped into the  
10 blocks; and

outputting the temporarily stored sample data of each  
block based on the control information added to the block.

2. An audio decoding apparatus comprising:

15 a decoding unit which receives audio data including  
a plurality of coded sample data, groups a plurality of the  
sample data into a block, and adds control information  
relating to attribute to each block;

a storage unit which temporarily stores the decoded  
20 sample data; and

an output unit which outputs the temporarily stored  
sample data of each block based on the control information  
added to the block.

3. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said decoding unit groups the sample data into the  
block by frame unit.

5 4. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said decoding unit groups the sample data having  
same attribute into one block.

5. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
10 wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information that indicates sample data from which the  
output control can be started.

6. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
15 wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating number of channels that are to  
be output for one sample data.

7. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
20 wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating a number of sample data that have  
been grouped in one block.

8. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating down sample.

5 9. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating word length of data to be output.

10 10. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating word length of data to be output  
when there are plurality of outputs.

15 11. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating formation of an output channel.

20 12. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein said decoding unit adds to the control information  
an information indicating number of slots of the formation  
of the output channel.

13. The audio decoding apparatus according to claim 12,  
wherein the number of slots is variable.

